AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0012] with the following paragraph:

[0012] With initial reference to Figure 1, the optically initiated propulsion system according to the present invention is illustrated and generally identified at reference 10. The propulsion system 10, shown operatively disposed in vessel 12, includes an optical source 20 such as a laser for producing laser light. Fiber coupler 50 optically connects optical source 20 with a slurry fuel/oxidizer mixture 90 in combustion chamber 70. An intensity profiler 30 and optical wavelength filter 40 are incorporated between optical source 20 and fiber coupler 50. A fiber to chamber coupler 60 is used to interconnect the fiber ~~coupler 30~~ coupler 50 with the slurry fuel/oxidizer mixture 70. The optical initiation of combustion of the slurry fuel and air mixture yields a mixture of partially dissociated air and chemically cracked ~~fuel 60~~ fuel 80.